

**A Command Message from Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche,
CASCOM and Fort Lee Commanding General
“Suicide Prevention Stand Down Day”**

Team,

The sense of community that exists here truly makes Fort Lee one of the best places to live and work in the Army. I firmly believe high standards, complemented with consistency, are the marks of true professionals and all are trademarks of Team Lee.

Each day, the team is making a difference. You are leading the way, and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure Fort Lee continues to be the community of excellence that it is today.

I often speak about how, as war-fighting logisticians and sustainers, we will give the shirts off our backs and the boots off our feet to support the fight. That same level of commitment and dedication is needed both on and off the battlefield. I want to talk to you today about a few subjects of critical importance. Each effects our mission readiness and our ability to function as a team – suicide prevention, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

We've recently lost Soldiers to possible suicide and received reported incidents of sexual misconduct. This year, a number of our troops and Army Family members have either communicated suicidal thoughts, made suicidal gestures or attempted suicide. Teammates, I ask for your continued support and commitment to our community. We need your help. My intent is not to lose another team member, and we are hard at work on this mission. We are launching the “What Can I Do – Not What I Should Have Done” campaign; however, this educational and awareness program is just the beginning. It will take the whole team – working together and extending a helping hand to those who may be suffering.

On Sept. 27, we will hold an installation-wide stand down day as a way to familiarize all members of our military Family with the health promotion, risk reduction, suicide prevention and comprehensive resources available. The day's activities will also focus on how to improve the health and discipline of the force.

The Army continues to take aggressive action to promote health, identify and reduce risky behaviors, and prevent suicides. Our primary goal is to ensure each member of the team is treated with dignity and respect and is encouraged to seek assistance if he or she is experiencing challenges. To complement the Army's programs, Fort Lee has developed and implemented several initiatives to support education and provide assistance whenever and wherever it is needed. A localized pocket card will be issued to service members with the phone numbers of a chaplain and the sexual assault and domestic abuse hotline, both of which are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The card is also available online at www.lee.army.mil. Posters will also be placed around the installation. Help is only a phone call away.

It is crucial for our warriors, civilians and Families to recognize that seeking help during times of stress is a sign of strength. Leadership involvement is the key to creating healthy environments

where all team members are encouraged to seek help. Our success depends on each of you – the whole team.

Suicide is a tragedy that can be prevented. One caring person can mean the difference between life and death. No one should ever feel like he or she stands alone. If you know someone who needs help, it is your duty to take positive action. And if you need help, we are here to support you. No team member is alone on Fort Lee.

I also wanted to speak to you today about sexual assault and sexual harassment. Please understand sexual assault is a very serious crime. The Department of Defense has zero tolerance for both sexual misconduct and sexual harassment. Our goal at Fort Lee is to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment. Be confident that acts reported will be handled appropriately. As service members, we treat each other with respect; we watch out for one another and take care of each other. We don't take advantage of one another.

As a community, we take all allegations of sexual assault and sexual harassment seriously. Victims are encouraged to contact the installation sexual assault response coordinator or the unit victim advocate; both are available to coordinate victim support services.

Together, let's create an environment on Fort Lee that eliminates instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment, and also provides compassionate care for the victims of these terrible abuses.

The health and welfare of our service members, civilians and Families is my top priority. Although the stand down event is just for one day, training and outreach will continue. Fort Lee is committed to doing what is needed to care for our most vital assets – our team members.

CASCOM and Fort Lee have a proud legacy and together we will continue to build on the solid foundation that exists. Excellence is not an accident and, with each member of the Team working together, we will be the model installation for our great Army.

Support Starts Here!